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By: **Delegate Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Humane Society - Repeal of Written Notice to Inspect**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that a humane society must send a  
4 certain written notice prior to making an inspection of certain premises and  
5 kennels to determine if there is inhumane treatment of dogs; and generally  
6 relating to the right of a humane society to inspect certain premises and kennels  
7 to determine if there is inhumane treatment of dogs.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
10 Section 67A  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

16 67A.

17 Any authorized director of a State-chartered humane society when accompanied  
18 by a sheriff or one of his deputies[, after having given prior written notice of the time  
19 and date to the owners or occupants of the premises,] may visit and inspect the  
20 premises where any person is engaged in the business of buying, selling, trading, or  
21 breeding dogs, or the premises of any kennels where twenty-five or more dogs are  
22 kept, for the purpose of determining if there is inhumane treatment of dogs therein  
23 which is prohibited by this subtitle or any other applicable law. This section does not  
24 apply to any premises (1) on which the keeping or breeding of dogs is solely for the  
25 purpose of medical or related research or laboratory tests; (2) operated by a licensed  
26 and regularly practicing veterinarian; or (3) on which hunting dogs, are housed, if the  
27 buying, selling, trading or breeding is incidental to the main purposes of housing,  
28 keeping and using dogs. In Baltimore City the provisions of this section shall be  
29 enforced by the Baltimore City Health Department. In Baltimore County, the

1 provisions of this section shall be enforced by the Baltimore County Bureau of Animal  
2 Control or by an organization approved by the Baltimore County government.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 July 1, 2001.